REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 30, 31, and 36-39 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as the invention; no change in scope of these claims is either intended or believed to be effected by these changes. Claims 1, 3, 16, 19, 20, and 30 are independent.

Claims 17, 30, and 31 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Regarding Claims 17 and 31, the Office Action states that the phrase "the blocks of samples" has no antecedent basis. Applicants has amended Claims 17 and 31 to recite --sample blocks-- as kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim 30, the Office Action states: "the phrase 'wherein said processing device' corresponds to either line 1 'Device' or line 2 'device' of claim 30." Applicant has amended the recitation "wherein said processing device comprises" to --wherein said device for processing--.

Withdrawal of the objections to Claims 17, 30, and 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Specifically, Claims 36-39 have been amended to recite --implementing the processing method--. It is believed that the rejection under

Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,314,452 to Dekel et al. Claims 8, 10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Dekel et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,711,297 to Chang et al.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of processing a coded digital signal including (1) a set of samples of different types obtained by coding a set of original samples representing physical quantities, and (2) a set of information representing original samples and parameters used during the coding. The method includes the steps of determining a subset of samples corresponding to a selected part of the original digital signal using the set of information, and obtaining a number of samples of at least one predetermined type and which are contained in the determined subset of samples. The method further includes the step of deciding whether or not to modify the determined subset of samples according to the obtained number of samples of the predetermined type(s), before restoring the selected part of the original signal.

Notably, the method of processing a coded digital signal recited in Claim 1 includes deciding whether or not to modify the determined subset of samples according to the obtained number of samples of the at least one predetermined type, before restoring the selected part of the original signal.

Dekel et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for accessing a portion of an image. When a user wishes to access a remote image, the server performs a fast pre-processing step in near real-time of the image. Once the pre-processing stage is

done (see, e.g., step 202 on Figure 2) the server sends to the client a notification that the image is ready to be served. The server also transmits the basic parameters associated with the image, such as dimensions, color space, etc. Upon receiving this notification, the client can select any ROI (Region of Interest) of the image using a standard graphical user interface. The ROI Is formulated (see, e.g., step 203) by the client into a request list that is sent to the server. Each request corresponds to a data block. Upon receiving the ROI request list, the server processes the requests. For each request, the server computes the data block and sends it to the client. The processing of the data block consists of, from a local portion of the uncompressed image, compressing and encoding the data block associated with the ROI. Data encoded is then progressively sent to the client (see, e.g., steps 803 - 804 of Figure 8).

In Dekel et al., for example as shown in Figure 2 and as discussed at columns 4 and 5, the system is based on the graphical selection of a part of an image by a client. Then, the client computer determines the data blocks subset corresponding to the selected part of the image and some requests are sent to the server with a view to receiving the data blocks. Upon reception of these requests, the server processes the data blocks by compressing and encoding this data. After this step of encoding, this encoded data (i.e. the encoded selected part of the image) is sent to the client in order to be decoded on the client side.

In Dekel et al., no further operations are performed on the digital signal once it is encoded and before it is decoded, except the sending of the digital signal. In stark contrast, in the method of Claim 1, processing is applied to a coded digital signal and not to a digital signal before its coding.

In particular, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner when the Examiner asserts that the splits of groups of coefficients (see column 11, lines 25 to 27) with respect to the step of significance scan (see section 4.1.3.1 beginning at column 10) within the progressive sub band coding algorithm (see section 4 beginning at column 8), corresponds to a modification of a determined subset of samples as recited in Claim 1, since the operation in Dekel et al. is made before the encoding of the data on the server side and not on a coded digital image as recited in the method of Claim 1.

Furthermore, the deciding step of Claim 1, of deciding whether or not to modify a determined subset of samples, is a function of an obtained number of samples of a predetermined type. Applicant has found no teaching or suggestion of this feature in the cited portion of Dekel et al. Moreover, nothing in Dekel et al. would teach or suggest deciding whether or not to modify a determined subset of samples; the so-called "modification" in Dekel et al. always takes place and the possibility of not "modifying" is not even hinted at in Dekel et al.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is seen to be patentable over Dekel et al.

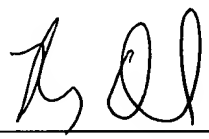
Independent Claims 3, 16, 19, 20, and 30 each include certain features which are similar in many relevant respects to the features discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 3, 16, 19, 20, and 30 are seen to be patentable over Dekel for at least the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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